the data signal path means and means for generating the messages for transfer onto the data signal path means.

7. A remote unit as recited in claim 5 wherein said decoding means comprises (1) filter means for receiving frequency-shift-keyed signals from the second signal path means, (2) lock detection means for generating a lock detection signal when said filter means receives frequency-shift-keyed signals, and (3) frequency-shift-keyed demodulation means connected to said filter means and to said lock detection means for generating a serial digital data signal in response to the signal on the second signal path means, said microcomputer system means receiving the lock detection signal and serial digital data signals and assembling the control data.

8. A remote unit as recited in claim 7 wherein said microcomputer system means generates status data in response to the assembled control data from the central location and includes storage means for the assembled status data and means for initiating the transfer of a status message including the status data as frequency-shift-keyed signals.

9. A remote unit as recited in claim 8 wherein said microcomputer system means includes (1) variable timer means for generating periodic timing signals after a time period determined by a time value, (2) program storage means for storing a first block of instructions that enable said microcomputer system means to control said first function means and to monitor said second function means, (3) program storage means for storing a second block of instructions that enable the microcomputer system means to respond to the lock detection signal at a corresponding one of said input signalling means by transferring a time value to said variable timer means and by disabling further response to said lock detection means, and (4) program storage means for storing a third block of instructions that are processed each time said variable timer means generates its periodic timing signal and that enable said microcomputer system means to assemble the incoming message from said decoding means and to thereafter transmit the status message, said third block of instructions further enabling response to the signal detection means after the status message is transferred.

10. A remote unit as recited in claim 9 wherein said microcomputer system means includes data memory means for storing transfer status and wherein instructions in each of said first, second, and third blocks of instructions enable said microcomputer system means to alter the transfer status in said data memory means.

11. A remote unit as recited in claim 5 wherein said microcomputer system means further includes program storage means for storing instructions that enable said microcomputer system means to monitor signals at said input signalling means and to produce signals at said output signalling means thereby to monitor said second function means and to control said first function means.

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